

REMARKS

I. Introduction

With cancellation without prejudice of claims 2, 18-22, 33-34, 37, claims 1, 3-17, 23-32, 35-36, 38-60 are pending in the present application. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

II. Rejection of Claims 18-22, 33 34 and 37 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 18-22, 33, 34 and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,303,837 ("Adams"). Applicants have canceled without prejudice claims 18-22, 33, 34 and 37. Therefore, Applicants respectfully maintain that the rejection is moot.

III. Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 3-17 and 41-60 were deemed allowed. Also, claims 23-32, 35, 36 and 38-40 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent format including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Applicants have rewritten the above-referenced claims so as to be in independent format. Therefore, Applicants respectfully maintain that these claims are in condition for immediate allowance.

IV. Conclusion

It is therefore respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, an early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

KENYON & KENYON

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By: 

Thomas C. Hughes
Reg. No. 42,674

One Broadway
New York, New York 10004
(212) 425-7200

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